726x
539x

Cowardice Reproached

1. *Al-waǧd waǧdi lahel lebde*
   alli 'ala-l-ǧam' dellâḳe
2. *al-herǧ mâ 'âd leh zebde*
   low čaṭṭerowh kill melḥḳe
3. *eben ṣabbâḥ ḥabeḍ hebde*
   w-sa'dûn mâ ṭallaḳ eṣjâḳeh.

1. I pity, I pity the people of Lubde,
   Who with courage throw themselves on the enemy.
2. Butter cannot be had for mere talk;
   The more they spread the tidings, the more they all lie.
3. Eben Ṣabbâḥ ran till his head shook, [camels!
   And Sa'dûn! Oh, how he dismissed the captured she-

Eben Ṣabbâḥ, the lord of al-Kwejt, together with Sa'dûn al-Aškar, the head chief of the Muntifeḳ, made a raid on Eben Rašîd, whose troops offered resistance. Each troop consisted of the inhabitants of the same district of Ḥâjel under a flag of their own. The troop of the Lubde district took to flight, thus endangering the others. But they took heart again and drove the enemy back. To excuse themselves the Lubde men then pretended to have retreated of set purpose.

Verse 2. *Al-herǧ mâ leh zebde*, chatter without butter, [521]• signifies empty talk, gossip. He works his mouth as if churning skimmed milk but will never make butter.

Advice to a Chief

1. *Jâ-bu reǧa' jâ-l-ḳarm 'endi lakom ḫowr*
   w-eften tara-l-aḫwâr muḫṭi w-ṣâjeb
2. *jâ mâ ḥala-l-ma'bâr min 'enda manǧûr*
   w-lâ taḳṭa' ax-naḫwât kûd aṣ-ṣalâjeb
3. *nanḥar eben ša'lân w-al-'ezz madjûr*
   jâ 'ezz min dâr al-ḥara' w-el-ḥarâjeb
4. *naskof min aš-šâma elja-l-ǧerr abu ṣôṭr*
   marâte' aš-šidḳ al-abkâr al-anâjeb
5. *rwejlât w-en ḥaṭṭaw bihen kill ḥâbûr*
   ṭarîḥahom taǧbor 'alejh ax-nuṣâjeb
6. *awlâd 'abdallâh ma' awlâd mašhûr*
   mercin ǧadd muṣabbaḫât al-ḥêzâjeb
7. *w-en ǧaw hal al-belka da'âfîr w-da'ṭûr*
   bejmânahom tamreǧ 'ala ǧâjr ṭâjeb.